

REMARKS

The Office Action dated May 30, 2008, has been received and its contents carefully noted. Claims 1-16 were pending. Claims 1, 2, 7-9, 15 and 16 are rejected. An objection was made to claims 3-6 and 10-14. The Drawings filed on May 31, 2006 were accepted. Acknowledgement was made of our claim for foreign priority. The Information Disclosure Statements filed August 8, 2006, May 31, 2006 and September 5, 2006 were considered.

By this response, claims 2, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 11, 15 and 16 are amended. Claims 1 and 8 are canceled. The features of claim 1 have been incorporated into claims 3 and 4, respectively. Also, the features of claim 8 have been incorporated into claims 10 and 11, respectively. No statutory new matter has been added. Support for all claim amendments can be found in the disclosure. Pursuant to the amendments, Applicants respectfully submit a check in the sum of \$210 for one extra independent claim.

Claim Interpretations

Applicants acknowledge the Office Action's interpretation in the claims that “/” corresponds to “and”.

Claim Objections – Allowable Subject matter

An objection was made to claims 3-6 and 10-14 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicants have incorporated the features of claim 1 into claims 3 and 4, respectively, as well as the features of claim 8 into claims 10 and 11, respectively. Claims 5 and 6 are still dependent upon claim 4. Also, claims 12-14 are still dependent upon claim 11. In view of the foregoing, Applicants courteously request withdrawal and reconsideration of the objection to claims 3-6 and 10-14, and that such claims be placed in immediate condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102 (b)

Claims 1-2, 7-9 and 15-16 stand rejected as being anticipated by Ogata et al (US 2002/0037462). The rejection as to claims 1 and 8 is moot. The rejection as to claims 2, 7, 9, 15 and 16 is traversed in view of the claim amendments made hereby. Because amended claims 2

and 7 depend upon amended claim 4 and amended claims 9, 15 and 16 depend upon amended claim 11, Applicants respectfully urge withdrawal and reconsideration of the rejection to claims 2, 7, 9, 15, and 16. As such, claims 2, 7, 9, 15 and 16 should be placed in immediate condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Therefore it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for all allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

It is not believed that extensions of time are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in accompanying documents. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a), and any fees required therefore are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-4300, Attorney Docket No. 033082M328.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: August 22, 2008

SGRDC312280.2